2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

28 April 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on "principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"

Report submitted by Australia

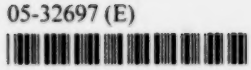
1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains essential to international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, facilitate access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and advance nuclear disarmament. The current intense international concern about weapons of mass destruction proliferation, including potentially to non-State groups, has added to the importance of the nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty. Universality remains a key objective. Australia calls upon the three countries yet to join — India, Israel and Pakistan — to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States.

2. As a non-nuclear weapon State, the main contribution by Australia to nuclear disarmament is working for progress on the reinforcing steps essential to create an environment favourable to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

3. Australia believes that the article VI goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved only through a series of balanced, incremental and reinforcing steps — including nuclear warhead reductions, entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty, further progress on nuclear weapon-free zones, and a strong and effective nuclear non-proliferation regime.

4. The Moscow Treaty, which entered into force on 1 June 2003, is a notable further step towards nuclear disarmament. The significance of the Moscow Treaty lies not just in its quantitative reductions but also in its ushering in of a more cooperative arms control relationship between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Australia hopes both countries will take advantage of the opportunities provided by that approach to pursue progressive reductions to strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons in both deployed and reserve holdings. We also look to the nuclear weapon States to pursue further reductions in the operational status of nuclear weapon systems in ways that promote international stability and security.

05-32697 (E)



5. At the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Australia was an original co-sponsor of the nuclear disarmament resolution "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons", which emphasized the central importance of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to the implementation of commitments in respect of article VI of the Treaty.

6. Australia strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and continues to make representations to countries yet to sign or ratify, especially Annex 2 countries and those in the Asia-Pacific region, urging their early signature and/or ratification of the Treaty. Australia, Mexico and New Zealand formed the core group that put forward the resolution on the Treaty adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. With Finland, Japan and the Netherlands, Australia convened at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly a joint ministerial meeting on the Treaty which underscored the continued widespread support for the Treaty. Australia has been appointed the Treaty article XIV coordinator for 2005-2006 and President-designate of the 2005 article XIV Conference on ways to accelerate the entry into force of the Treaty.

7. Australia is an active participant in development of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty International Monitoring System (IMS) and welcomes the continued progress being made on the System. Australia will host the third highest number of IMS stations (after the United States of America and the Russian Federation).

8. The fissile material cut-off treaty remains a priority for Australia. Australia continues to press for a start to negotiations for such a treaty. Australia is also active in promoting examination of issues that will arise in those negotiations. The position of Australia is that to be credible and effective the treaty should include measures to verify parties are complying with their obligations.

9. Effective non-proliferation is essential for a climate conducive to nuclear disarmament. Recent events have highlighted a clear and urgent need to strengthen the Treaty's compliance and verification mechanisms.

10. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards are not static and have undergone considerable evolution since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entered into force in 1970. The Additional Protocol and the development of strengthened and integrated safeguards are the most recent manifestation of that. Australia played a prominent role in negotiation of the Additional Protocol and was the first country to ratify such a Protocol.

11. Australia is of the firm view that the Additional Protocol together with a comprehensive safeguards agreement is the current verification standard pursuant to article III.1 of the Treaty, and believes the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should take a decision to that effect. Australia considers that integrated IAEA safeguards are essential to the effective and cost-effective implementation of strengthened safeguards.

12. The risk of misuse by States parties to the Treaty of its peaceful nuclear energy provisions in order to acquire the technical basis for a rapid breakout to nuclear weapons is a serious matter for the international community. Australia strongly supports the current extensive dialogue in relevant international forums on steps that would limit the spread of sensitive technology while respecting the rights of parties

to the Treaty to peaceful nuclear energy in conformity with the non-proliferation provisions under articles I, II and III.

Outreach and regional assistance

13. Australia is stepping up its regional outreach efforts. As part of those efforts, Australia is conducting outreach to regional countries on agreements such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Additional Protocol. Australia is also working with regional countries on practically based outreach in key areas such as export controls, nuclear security and safeguards training.

14. A major initiative under the Australian regional outreach programme was hosting of the Asia-Pacific Nuclear Safeguards and Security Conference in Sydney on 8 November 2004. In addition to regional ministers and their representatives, the conference was attended by the Director General of the IAEA.

15. The meeting recognized that a strong nuclear safeguards and security framework was essential to realizing the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear energy. It noted that effective nuclear safeguards and security measures were vital not only for countries with nuclear power programmes or research reactors, but also for those where radioactive materials are used for medical, industrial and scientific purposes. Participants agreed to work together in a sustained and comprehensive effort to expand and enhance the nuclear safeguards and security framework. The outcomes statement from the conference has been circulated as document NPT/CONF.2005/2.